

Tobin Cassels, the president of Southeastern Freight Lines first met Bill Jones at a downtown Bible study. He writes:

“His influence on my life has been profound as he has helped shape me into the man I have become. And I have had a front row seat watching Bill have this same influence on hundreds of other businessmen that have sat under his teaching these past 17 years. He models for all of us what it looks like to be a man of integrity, a husband, a father, and most of all, a follower of Christ.”

JT Gandolfo is another Columbia businessman who has been greatly influenced by Bill Jones:

“Dr. Jones is a man of integrity to the extreme. He has personally mentored me and was and is instrumental to my Christian Formation.”

In a letter to the media, CIU alumnus and former CIU Provost Dr. Ralph Enlow questioned the news reporting:

“I had the privilege of participating in the process of bringing Dr. Jones to CIU in the late 1980s and I worked as his colleague and supervisor over much of the next two decades. Your article relied entirely upon the unsubstantiated ‘testimony’ ... and you made no effort to solicit or report testimony from the legion of students, faculty members, trustees, and community leaders who can attest to Dr. Jones’ personal integrity ...”

Many of you know CIU Professor Dr. Andre Rogers. He was recently named special assistant to the president by Dr. Smith. Of Dr. Smith he writes:

“He is a caring and wise leader with a big heart for the community. He leads with integrity and skill. Dr. Smith is fast becoming a leader within Columbia.”

Dr. Smith’s former pastor Tim Throckmorton of Crossroads Church in Circleville, Ohio had the opportunity to observe Dr. Smith for seven years:

“As to the recent verbal and printed attacks on my dear friend, I can say that I have seen on display that same Godly character and personal integrity today as in the past as he continues to have a tender heart of forgiveness and love toward others even those attacking. His love for God and his passion of serving others has in no way diminished.”